Federated CLUBS

BY REBECCA STILES TAYLOR

SARAH LEE FLEMING ASKS:
"SHOULD WORK BE CONTINUED?"

IMAGINE MY DILEMMA at a Juvenile Court, where before the judge stood a group of confused Negro girls, none of them over twenty, branded 'delinquents,' and well on their way to a prescribed institution. Many thoughts rushed to my mind on that memorable occasion in my home town, New Haven, Conn., during the First World War.

Mrs. Taylor

The most important of these thoughts were, 'These girls of tender age now, will some day direct the course of a future generation. How can they successfully go with records behind them such as are being established here this morning? What can I do to prevent these delinquencies when most of the girls come from homes away from New Haven?"

At this time Negro youth in large numbers were attracted to New Haven because its munitions factories accepted labor irrespective of race or color. To Negro women, especially from the Southland, there was an appeal for this type of work, therefore, they were eager to be in line for whatever was offered. Economic pressure usually forces the Negro to live in limited quarters in large cities, thus this onrush of new people during the war period made desirable space more unavailable.

On the other hand, limited funds forced the women to take ANY place to live, no matter where, as long as they got the job. Forgetting entirely the exposure they subjected themselves to, they soon fell victims to their environment, and not always being strong enough to resist the evils confronting them, the were caught in the net of delinquency.

WAS I WRONG DOIN' THIS?

In my desire to be of help, I interceded for the girls on probation and with the help of some of our ministers, temporary homes were provided where many girls lived out their probationary periods. Those charged with graver offenses were sent where their actions could be under strict surveillance of the law. To prevent such recurrences I made a thorough investigation of what could be done to help — if not entirely prevent. At this time I heard about Phillis Wheatley Homes being up in a number of large cities for Negro girls with limited funds, who were compelled to live away from their homes.

A group of interested women joined me in the early 30's and with the help of the late Mrs. Mary Jones Taylor, then president of the Twentieth Century Club of New Haven, we organized the Women's Civic League for the purpose of protecting Negro girls who came to New Haven alone and with little funds.

PHILLIS WHEATLEY HOME

The city fathers of New Haven in the year of 1936 became interested in what the Women's Civic League was endeavoring to do, and gave this group a small house on Canal st., in which to start its preventive work. In this same house the work has continued for 15 years.

During that time, 567 girls have found their way here from other cities for protection. Many of this number we have been able to help although our home accommodates only eight girls at any one time. I have often wondered what becomes of the girls we have to turn away!

It is said that this work is not NOW needed in New Haven. Is it not important still to try to save ALL GIRLS —mothers of future generations? Because we believe in our cause, we have operated our Phillis Wheatley Home for 15 years with only public contributions and the nominal charge we make to our girls for their rooms. Although we feel the financial strain, wealso feel that this work is IMPORTANT and MUST BE DONE.

With the expansion of the ELM Haven Project which joins our Phillis Wheatley Home, our land will be required and our home faces extinction unless more interest is manifested in the work that the Women's Civic League is striving to do in New Haven.

We need more room than we now have for the number of girls who come to us seeking the protection they need. We fail them when we turn them away. DON'T YOU THINK THIS WORK SHOULD CONTINUE?"

Thanks for your help in the past.

Signed Sarah Lee Fleming, founder and president of the Women's Civic League, Inc., 216 Dwight st., New Haven Conn.

Girl, 12, tells sordid story of mother's conduct

A sordid story, told by a disillusioned 12-year-old Carver junior high school girl, was scheduled today to lead to the filing by police of a complaint against an east-side mother and her boyfriend for contributing, and against a boxer with Japanese war wounds all over his body for statutory rape and crime against a child.

Returned to her home after spending a night out with the boxer, the child, whose name is withheld, told a story of careless living seldom equalled even in the experience of case-hardened Georgit st. juvenile officers.

Facing the contributing charge is Mrs. Bobbie May Whittaker, of 3614½ Mettler, mother of a 13-day-old baby, in addition to the 12-year-old delinquent girl, and her 8 year-old sister.

The mother's boyfriend, assumed to be the father of the new baby, is Marshall Marsh, of the Mettler st. address. The boxer, whom the girl said has attacked her three times and fondled her intimately many times over the past five months, is Jimmy Rock Johnson, of 4007 Paloma st.

Police say that Johnson has a plate in his head, the letter "J" tattooed on his arm, Japanese-inflicted wounds, and a large hole in his back, all from Pacific combat during the war.

She went voluntarily with the boxer Friday night of last week, the girl told police, slipping out the back way and joining him after her mother had ordered him to leave the house.

The break came about when the woman learned of the boxer's misconduct toward the child, Mrs. Whittaker told police. The boxer allegedly slapped her during the fracas.

The 12-year-old told police that she and Johnson spent the night in a hotel at 36th and Maple where Johnson attocked her. The two previous attacks had taken place at home while her mother, described as given to drinking to excess, was asleep.

Her mother has lived with two different men, bearing both older girls by them, the child told officers.

The child said that she has often seen her mother and Marsh in bed together.

Fear Of Jealousy By Whites Keeps Florida Delinquent Girls Homeless

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Legislature here is going to be asked to make prompt provision for delinquent Negro girls by putting in operation the idle Forest Hills Female Correction Institution. Members of the Florida Children's Commission, which is making the recommendation, made no bones about stating that the one completed unit of the proposed four-unit institution is closed against Negroes principally through fear of public reaction.

If Negro girls were moved into the modern buildings of Forest Hills then white girls at the older industrial school for girls nearby would protest. Both institutions are near Ocala, Fla.

Forest Hills is intended, when finished, to house white and Negro girl delinquents and white and Negro criminals in four separate units. Only the Negro girls' unit has been built so far and it is standing empty and unfurnished. The state makes no provision for Negro girl delinquents at present. Both white and Negro women are confined at the state prison at Raiford.

Juvenile Judge W. S. Criswell of Jacksonville told the commission that delinquent Negro girls now "run wild and spread disease and immorality." That, he said, is costing more than "what you'll run into if you move colored children in this marble palace and leave white girls in the cottage on the hill."

Negro Juvenile Aid Set-Up Studied

Police Chief Walter E. Headley said Saturday that provision for a Negro juvenile aid bureau has been included in the budget now under consideration by the Miami city commission.

Commenting on a suggestion by Juvenile Judge Walter H. Beckham that such a bureau be set up, Headley said the department's plan, decided upon two months ago, would provide three Negroes to man the proposed department.

Detailed plans for the bureau have not been worked out, pending approval of the budget, Headley said, and it has not been decided whether it will be placed under direction of Capt. Louis A. Allen, who heads the present juvenile bureau.

Population Growth At D. C. Reformatories Outstrips U. S. Average

The prison population at the District reformatories at Lorton, Va., increased 7.7 per cent during 1950, while the average national increase in Federal and State prisons was only 1.2 per cent.

The figures were released yesterday in a statistical report by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Gratifying to Federal prison officials was a drop of 15,157 in Federal and State prison population throughout the country between 1939, when 182,320 were incarcerated, and 1950.

Although some increase was noted, "the predicted postwar boom in prison population failed to materialize," a spokesman said.

"We do not know the exact reasons but we feel that perhaps improved economic conditions and greater use of probation in place of prison sentences may have been factors."

Reason for the rise in the District can only be conjectured, Donald Clemmer, director of the District Department of Corrections, said. He attributed the increase in part to more efficient police work.

While the Maryland prison population declined during 1950 by 256, or 6.2 per cent of the 4,148 figure at the start of 1950, Virginia's increased by 4.6 per cent to a total of 4,439.

Nationally, there were 167,173 prisoners under sentence in Federal and State institutions at the end of 1950 as compared to 165,127 in 1949, a gain of 2,046.

Besides the District and Virginia, 28 States showed increases in prison populations and 19 showed declines.

Greatest percentage increases were in Utah, 18.7 per cent; Maine, 13.2 per cent; Washington, 11.5 per cent, and New Mexico, 10.7 per cent. Decreases were greatest in Nevada, 25 per cent; Rhode Island, 18.9 per cent; Alabama, 11.6 per cent, and Vermont, 8.8 per cent.

MISS PEARL M. GORE
. . . serves at institute

Serves at Unique Research Institute

Courier

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Miss Pearl M. Gore, daughter of President and Mrs. George W. Gore Jr., of Florida A. and Mr. College, Tallahassee, has been appointed to serve at the Institute of Juvenile Research in Chicago which began Sept. 1.

The institute is the first and foremost Child Guidance Clinic in the United States and is devoted to the alievation of the personality and behavior disorders and difficulties of children. It is a division of the Department of Public Welfare, State of Illinois.

Miss Gore recently received her master's degree in psychology from Ohio State University and was a member of the staff at the Florida A. and M. College during the summer session. She holds membership in Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

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Girl, 12, St. Paul's 'Toughest Juvenile', Tips Her Hand To Cops

ST. PAUL, Minn.—". . .I hate cops . . . I carry knives . . . I ain't got a conscience . . ."

These were some of the boasts made by a 12-year-old girl arrested last week by St. Paul police. Charles J. Tierney, chief of police, described the unnamed girl as "one of the toughest juveniles in St. Paul history."

Still defiant in jail, the girl confessed and gave details of a string of bizarre crimes dating from 1948 They included:

The brutal beating of a 6-year-old boy, who nearly died of his injuries.

Lead-pipe attacks of two other children.

A slugging robbery.

The nutcracker slugging of a little girl while babysitting.

Counterfeiting money.

Besides these and other crimes, the 5-foot, 9-inch, 135-pound girl admitted killing birds and cats by "banging them against the sidewalk."

The latest and probably most serious of the confessed crimes was the beating of 6-year-old James Bruce last Nov. 18 in an alley near his home. The boy was found in such critical condition that police concluded that he was the victim of a hit-and-run driver. He suffered a skull fracture and lacerations, and lapsed into a coma several times during his stay in the hospital.

The girl's arrest followed a swift investigation set off when Chief Tierney received a letter last week, which read:

"Dear Sirs: I am writing this letter to give myself up. Do you remember the time last fall when a little boy named James Bruce you say was hit by a car? He was not hit by a car. I beat him up.

"The reason his nose (was) so battered is that I kicked him. He was wearing a brown hat buckled under his chin, wasn't he? He also wore I think a brown coat.

"I am 12 years old. I will not tell you my name. I have a police record. I ain't sorry for what I did so keep your —— nose where it belongs. I hate cops. I have a scar on my left thumb. I am 5 feet 9. I have a crooked nose. I am a girl. I carry knives sometimes. I have 'killer' tattooed on my right hand.

"I weigh 135 pounds and live in St. Paul. I go to school and church. I am in the eighth grade. Here is my true description. See if you can find me. Ask James Bruce, 6-years-old. He knows me. Ha-ha."

The description the letter contained is fairly accurate, according to police. The girl is expected to undergo a psychiatric examination in a few days.

Is It Fair?

(An Editorial)

Two Negros are employed as social service workers on the staff of our Juvenile Court. We have information that one, Mrs. Opherita Daniels, will lose her job at the end of this month unless there is a change of heart somewhere in the top level of the court. The reason advanced is that there is not enough of a case load in the Negro area to warrant the retention of two full-time Negro case workers.

It required years of community pulling and pleading to secure the appointment of a Negro female case worker. North Tulsa community leaders had to hurdle two barriers to achieve this goal. First, they had the task of "selling" white officials on the principle that Negroes were at least entitled to the opportunity of doing this work among members of their own race, since, through no fault of their own, they were prevented from rendering such service to all elements of the population.

After that came the problem of finding a candidate who could meet the necessary qualifications. After frantic searching, community efforts finally met with success when Mrs. Opherita Daniels was appointed. A high court official admitted recently that the decision to let Mrs. Daniels go was "no reflection on Mrs. Daniels, and no reflection on her ability to do the work."

So why the decision to abolish the postion she now holds? Well, we learned that white case workers on the staff of this court are handling from twenty-nine to forty cases monthly. Mrs. Daniels and Harry Ward, the other Negro social worker, average fourteen cases monthly together. According to court officials, this disparity in case load is considered "unfair" to white workers.

It strikes us that an important point has been overlooked. It is not the fault of Mrs. Daniels and Mr. Ward that they are restricted to work in the Negro area. If they were assigned in rotation to any case that comes up, the work would be more evenly divided and there would be no imposition on white workers. If Mrs. Daniels and Mr. Ward are rated "qualified" as social service workers for the court, then it follows that they are capable of rendering service to all elements of the population. They are both victims of social and political limitations which have been imposed on the Negro Race. They are both able and willing to render service wherever they are sent. Is it fair to oust one or the other because of a situation they cannot help?

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Washington

LOUIS WILLIAMS

ATLANTA SOCIAL WORK SCHOOL GRAD GETS SEATTLE POST—Louis Williams, 1951 Master Social Work graduate of the Atlanta University School of Social Work is now employed as Probation Officer with the King's County Juvenile Court, Seattle, Washington.

Mr. Williams, a native of Flor[illegible] employed in this post and [illegible] other graduates of the School employed with other social agencies [illegible] Seattle.